

**MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT
Regular Monthly Meeting
April 20, 2017
4:30 PM**

TRUSTEES:	Marybeth Cunningham Ann Marie McCrystal Karen Deigl	Allen Jones Dr. Michael Weiss Barbara Bodnar
STAFF:	Ann Marie Suriano Kate Voss	Jennifer Frederick Jennifer Peshke, Esq.
OTHER ATTENDEESS:	Mary Blumstein Gerri Smith Michael Shea Brett Hall George Andreassi Tracey Zudans Kathy Grichnik, M.D.	Lewis Clark Cameron Shea Vicki Soule Matt Reiser Val Zudans Lundy Fields Gregory MacKay, M.D.

Convene Meeting – Marybeth Cunningham, Chairwoman IRCHD

Mrs. Cunningham convened the regular monthly meeting of the Indian River County Hospital District (“IRCHD”) at 4:30 p.m.

Consent Agenda – Marybeth Cunningham, Chairwoman

Mrs. Cunningham asked for a motion to approve the Chairman’s Meeting Minutes dated February 15, Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes dated February 16, and an April disbursement of \$1,087,628.32. Dr. Weiss made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mrs. McCrystal. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Cunningham explained that the Collaborative Committee was formed to review the governance structure of the District and IRMC. To date, no decisions have been made on this matter and the consultants are still reviewing data and information. She stated that all future collaborative meeting are open to the public and she encourages those with interest in this matter to attend.

District Counsel Report, Jennifer Peshke, Esq.

Mrs. Peshke provided her monthly district counsel report and stated she has met with the District office staff multiple times and continues to monitor the care card pilot program and provide assistance as the need arises. She provided an update to the Trustees at yesterday's Chairman's meeting regarding the active House and Senate Bills related to Special Districts and their authority to levy taxes. To date all active bills are with the Senate as the legislative session is now underway and there will be more activity as to whether these bills will proceed or die. The active bills include HB 843, which would scale back the Sunshine law and SB 740 which would prohibit a Special District that has the authority to tax from exercising its authority to tax without the consent of the electors residing within the District. This is of great significance to the Hospital District and those agencies currently funded by the Hospital District. She stated that she will continue to monitor and report back on the status of these bills.

Further, she is working with District office to answer questions regarding the appointment process for the open seat on the board following Dr. Hussamy's resignation. The deadline for the Governor to appoint a new Trustee is May 6, 2017.

Mrs. Peshke continues to work with counsel for the VNA as their lease of the Human Services building is up for renewal and they have indicated their desire to exercise the right to renew the lease for an additional five (5) year term. She explained that the building requires some repairs and upgrading and the District will work through those requests and will bring the same before the board of Trustees for approval before any funds are expended.

Lastly, Mrs. Peshke stated that she attended several meetings of the recently formed Collaborative Committee comprised of two Trustees, two IRMC Board members and the Chairman of the IRMC Foundation Board. She also attended several presentations by potential consultants who have come to speak to the group to outline how they would assist in the approach of possible action to be taken, with regard to the structure in place between the Hospital and the District. She has also met with IRMC counsel to discuss the same.

Financial Statement Review- Allen Jones, Treasurer

Mr. Jones provided the District's financial statement report and stated that the District is in sound financial condition and there is approximately \$9.5 million in its accounts. However, this amount does not include a \$2.6 million payment, which will be received this month from the Agency for Health Care Administration for the District participation in the Low Income Pool Funding Program. He further explained that since the beginning of the fiscal year, the District has paid to the various funded agencies \$5.8 million, which is \$725,000 under budget. Administrative expenses are also under budget by approximately \$135,000 year to date.

Mr. Jones discussed his view concerning myths that have been voiced in the community which state that the District utilizes taxpayer dollars to support IRMC inappropriately by subsidizing their revenues. He explained that the District does not fund IRMC in any other way except for services to support indigent care for patients in Indian River County and does not

subsidize their budget. He further reviewed IRMC patient revenue data, which consisted of the following:

1. Medicare- 67% of revenues
2. Medicaid- 5% of revenues
3. Self-Pay- 3% of revenues
4. District Indigent- 3% of revenues
5. Commercial Insurance- 22% of revenues

He explained that most hospitals in the U.S. lose money or breakeven on government funded services like Medicare, Medicaid, and charity care. In fiscal year 15-16, the District funded IRMC \$5.6 million to support indigent patients. This only covered around 87% of its cost to provide the care and resulted in the loss to IRMC of approximately \$800,000. In his view, taxpayers are not supporting IRMC, but rather buying services from IRMC, to treat the indigent in the county, at a heavily discounted price.

He further discussed the Districts' participation in the Low Income Pool Funding Program, wherein the District advances funds to the Agency for Health Care Administration on behalf of IRMC. In turn, IRMC receives substantial Low Income Pool distributions to support those patients and then the awarded funds are returned to the District. IRMC will net around \$3 million in total to support the LIP.

Executive Director Report- Ann Marie Suriano, Executive Director

Mrs. Suriano provided her Executive Director report and stated that through the District strategic plan they discovered a need for board education. In connection with that, Ms. Hope Woodhouse, a community member, addressed the Trustees at the last Chairman's meeting and discussed issues with healthcare for children in the community. She further stated that in June Dr. Juliette Lomax-Homier, who is a member of the Board of Directors of IRMC, will address the Trustees and discuss her work with the Florida State University and the medical students she works with and prepares for providing primary care.

Mrs. Suriano stated that she attended the FASD Legislative Session in Tallahassee on March 22. An extensive Legislative update was given by Lewis Longman Walker outlining the major bills being heard this session that affect Special Districts in Florida. Mrs. Suriano indicated that she had the opportunity to speak with Representative Erin Grall and she believes there is a good chance the bills related to the Certificate of Need and the question going on the ballot to allow the continuation of taxing authority for Hospital Districts will not pass through the session. Representative Grall agreed to meet with the Trustees at a future Chairman's meeting when the session is complete, to answer any questions that they may have. The session is expected to end in mid-May.

Funded Agencies Quarterly Report- Treasure Coast Community Health, Inc.- Vicki Soule, CEO

Mrs. Soule gave a brief description of the TCCH mission statement and stated that TCCH provides medical, dental and behavioral health services in Indian River County. She stated that TCCH has expanded to six clinical centers and employs over 200 staff members. She stated that they just opened a new Sebastian clinic, which provides behavioral health and primary care services. They also plan to open a new dental clinic in June, which is located in central Vero Beach. The clinic will house 32 dental chairs.

She reviewed TCCH's statistics and performance metrics along with patient satisfaction ratings for the clinics, with most patients rating at above average or excellent. Additionally, Mrs. Soule stated that behavioral health services are over budget by \$32,493 and they have seen the need for psychiatric services grow in the community. As a collaborative effort, TCCH has been working closely with the Mental Health Collaborative and are referring many patients to the Connections center for assistance.

There was Trustee discussion concerning the impact the District's Care Card Program had on TCCH. Mrs. Soule stated that the card has caused some confusion among the patients, as many think it is an insurance card, however she feels that it will be beneficial once the program is fully up and running.

Mental Health Collaborative- Brett Hall, Executive Director

Mr. Hall provided a historical review of the Mental Health Collaborative and stated that its sole role is to increase access to mental health services for individuals in Indian River County. He explained that through their recent strategic planning efforts they decided to break away from the United Way and incorporate into a 501(c) 3 organization.

Further, the Collaborative worked with other agencies in the community to write a state grant, which they were awarded in January. The grant will bring \$1.2 million over a three-year period to help support Mental Health Court. He explained that Mental Health Court is a program for individuals who suffer from mental illness that end up in the justice system. It is a resource for those to get treatment and help prevent future arrests.

Additionally, the Collaborative is working on a housing initiative in the community as obtaining proper housing has been an issue for many in the community. He further discussed the McCabe Connections Center, which is a hub for individuals, located in downtown Vero, to obtain help with housing, food, substance abuse and mental health issues. To date they have served 240 community members. There was further Trustee discussion and they agreed that the efforts of the Collaborative are extremely important to the residents of Indian River County and thanked Mr. Hall for his contributions.

IRMC, Inc. Monthly Report- Leasehold Improvement Approval: Endoscopy- Gregory MacKay, M.D. and Kathy Grichnik, M.D.

Dr. MacKay provided a review of the outpatient endoscopy expansion and interventional endoscopy project. He stated that cancer is the leading cause of death in India River County. He provided information concerning the Gastroenterology team of doctors and staff, which he joined in 2013. He reviewed outpatient endoscopy case data with the Trustees, which has continued to grow over the last few years. In 2015, they diagnosed 63 cases of colon cancer, which is the only preventable cancer as you can have annual screenings to detect it. He further reviewed the patient satisfaction data, which rated the program with five stars. Additionally, 100% of patients would recommend IRMC outpatient endoscopy to their friends and family.

Dr. MacKay provided the endoscopy project overview, which included a second floor renovation/expansion and first floor construction of a new lobby and covered patient drop off area. The project also includes an additional interventional endoscopy room, which will allow the center to see more patients. The construction is estimated to take eight months and cost a total of \$6.15 million. The project is fundraising dependent and has been approved by IRMC Foundation and IRMC Board. With the expansion, they estimate that they will be able to serve 7000 patients a year. Mr. Jones explained to the public that the hospital is required to ask approval from the District for any leasehold improvements, which cost more than \$500,000. Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the endoscopy improvement request, which was seconded by Dr. Weiss. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Grichnik provided information concerning IRMC's quality metrics and statistics. She compared IRMC current metric report from Oct 2016-Dec 2016 against the Florida Hospital Compare Benchmark and the National Hospital Compare Benchmark. ("Attachment 1"). Additionally, she stated that a quality council of individuals at IRMC has been formed and meet once a month to review the data and makes recommendations for improvements. The hospital is also working to make this data more accessible to the community. There was further Trustee discussion regarding the hospital's efforts to become more transparent with their quality metric data and they thanked Dr. Grichnik for her efforts.

Other Business-

Dr. Weiss read the following statement. "On March 8, 2017, I made a statement at the Taxpayers Association of Indian River County meeting regarding IRMC. During this meeting, I stated that IRMC is in dire economic crisis, in need of a taxpayer bail out, and should possibly file for bankruptcy, or it is already insolvent. I also stated that there should be a forensic audit conducted on IRMC concerning its finances and business. The newspaper TC Palm published these comments on March 8 and 10. My comments, which were published in the media, were not correct and I am sorry for the comments and retract the same. I would like the community to understand that the taxpayers are not responsible for the financial operations of IRMC. The District's only financial role with respect to the hospital is to purchase services from them to support indigent patients and the Partners Program."

Public Comment-

Dr. Val Zudans recognized the work of the Mental Health Collaborative and stated that it is a phenomenal program and money well spent by the District. In response to the Treasurer's report, he stated that the taxpayers are providing funds to the hospital and he questions if the hospital needs that money and should it be a responsibility of the taxpayers. He feels that well run hospitals do not need support from taxpayers and that there are 60 counties within the state who do not have a Hospital District. With the renegotiations of the insurance reimbursement rates, the hospital is projected to receive an additional \$11 million in funds. He asked the Trustees to consider if the hospital truly needs taxpayer support. They should be spending those funds to support other agencies like TCCH and the Collaborative.

Adjournment- The meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ann Marie McCrystal", written over the typed name.

Ann Marie McCrystal
Secretary